

**MINUTES**  
**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**  
**Commission Conference Call Meeting**  
**1420 East 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Helena Headquarters**  
**Helena, MT 59620**  
**June 20, 2008**

**Commission Member Present:** Shane Colton, Vice-Chairman; Vic Workman; Dan Vermillion.

**Fish, Wildlife & Parks Staff Present:** Larry Peterman; Bob Lane; Regena Peterson; Diane Tipton.

**Media Present on Telephone:** Susan Gallagher, Associated Press.

**Topics of Discussion:**

- 1. Opening – Call to Order**
- 2. Emergency Closure of the Yellowstone River in Livingston**

Vice-Chairman Colton called the conference call meeting to order at 2:45 p.m.

Larry Peterman explained that Fish, Wildlife & Parks received notification from the Department of Natural Resources, the Disaster and Emergency Services, and the Park County Sheriff's Office that the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Island Bridge in Livingston is in danger of collapsing due to the tremendous water flow of the Yellowstone River at 20,000 cfs. The water is washing the dirt out from under the center pilings causing the bridge to sink. Park County is requesting closure of the Yellowstone River from Carters Bridge to the Highway 89 North Bridge for public safety reasons.

Commissioner Vermillion said the bridge has settled a foot and a half at this point. People have been caught unaware, and they need to be kept off the water.

*Action: Vermillion moved and Workman seconded the motion to close the Yellowstone River to any recreation or activity from Carters Bridge to the Highway 89 North Bridge, and reopen it when the Park County Sheriff's Office deems it safe and requests that it be reopened. The FWP Director and Commissioner from the Region will be authorized to reopen the river. Motion carried.*

The conference call meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

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**Shane Colton, Vice-Chairman**

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**Larry Peterman, Acting Director**